

DISAPPROVED
DO NOT ENTER

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 08 2005

10/721,751
DOCKET NO. K06-163744M/TBS

2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus adapted to transmit power supplied from an electric motor for assisting steering, the electric power steering apparatus comprising:

a driving gear and a driven gear through which the power is transmitted,
wherein backlash between the driving gear and the driven gear is set at least in a neighborhood region of a steering neutral position to be smaller than that in a remaining region, and

wherein at least one of said driven gear and said driving gear comprises a bias portion that sets said backlash, and

wherein said driven gear includes said bias portion formed by biasing a part of an outer periphery of teeth in a direction in which the backlash is decreased.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving gear comprises a worm, the driven gear comprises a worm wheel, and a shaft center of the worm is offset in an axial direction of the worm wheel by a predetermined offset amount.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said neighborhood region comprises a steering angular range on each side of said steering neutral position.

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 08 2005

10/721,751

2

DOCKET NO. K06-163744M/TBS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus adapted to transmit power supplied from an electric motor for assisting steering, the electric power steering apparatus comprising:

a driving gear and a driven gear through which the power is transmitted,

wherein backlash between the driving gear and the driven gear is set at least in a neighborhood region of a steering neutral position to be smaller than that in a remaining region, and

wherein at least one of said driven gear and said driving gear comprises a bias portion that sets said backlash, and

wherein said driven gear includes said bias portion formed by biasing a part of an outer periphery of teeth in a direction in which the backlash is decreased.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving gear comprises a worm, the driven gear comprises a worm wheel, and a shaft center of the worm is offset in an axial direction of the worm wheel by a predetermined offset amount.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said neighborhood region comprises a steering angular range on each side of said steering neutral position.